AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-14. (Canceled).

15. (currently amended) A method for preparing non-spherical resin particles, comprising the steps of:

applying a shear force to an aqueous dispersion (II) with increased viscosity formed by adding a thickener (V) to an aqueous dispersion (I) containing resin particles (A); and

decreasing the viscosity of the aqueous dispersion obtained by the step described above by adding a viscosity decreasing agent (E); and

subjecting the aqueous dispersion obtained by the viscosity decreasing step described above to solid-liquid separation to remove the aqueous medium, wherein the viscosity decreasing agent (E) is α-glycanase and/or β-glycanase, and wherein the viscosity of the aqueous dispersion (II) is in the range of 300 to 100,000 mPa•s (at 25°C) and the viscosity of the aqueous dispersion after subjecting the viscosity decreasing step is 200 mPa•s or less (at 25°C).

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the thickener (V) is at least one of naturally-occurring, semisynthetic, and synthetic water-soluble polymers.

19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the thickener (V) is at least one selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid-based (co)polymer salts, vinyl ether-based (co)polymers, and cellulose-based semisynthetic polymers.

20. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the resin particles (A) comprises at least one resin selected from the group consisting of vinyl resins, polyurethanes, epoxy resins, and polyesters.

21. (currently amended) A method for preparing non-spherical resin particles, comprising the steps of:

applying a shear force to an aqueous dispersion (II) with increased viscosity formed by adding a thickener (V) to an aqueous dispersion (I) containing resin particles (A); and

decreasing the viscosity of the aqueous dispersion obtained by the step described above, wherein the aqueous dispersion (I) is a product obtained by reacting an reactive group-containing prepolymer (α) with a curing agent (β) in an aqueous medium; and

subjecting the aqueous dispersion obtained by the viscosity decreasing step described above to solid-liquid separation to remove the aqueous medium, wherein the viscosity of the aqueous dispersion (II) is in the range of 300 to 100,000 mPa•s (at 25°C) and the viscosity of the aqueous dispersion after subjecting the viscosity decreasing step is 200 mPa•s or less (at 25°C).

22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the reactive group-containing prepolymer (α) has at least one reactive group selected from the group consisting of an isocyanate group, a blocked isocyanate group and an epoxy group, and the curing agent (β) is an active hydrogen-containing compound (β1) that may be blocked with a removable compound.

23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the active hydrogen-containing compound (β1) that may be blocked with a removable compound is a ketimine compound and/or water.

24. (currently amended) A resin particle (B) obtained by the method comprising the steps of:

applying a shear force to an aqueous dispersion (II) with increased viscosity formed by adding a thickner (V) to an aqueous dispersion (I) containing resin particles (A);

decreasing the viscosity of the aqueous dispersion obtained by the step described above; and

subjecting the aqueous dispersion obtained by the viscosity decreasing step described above to solid-liquid separation to remove the aqueous medium, wherein the viscosity of the aqueous dispersion (II) is in the range of 300 to 100,000 mPa•s (at 25°C) and the viscosity of the aqueous dispersion after subjecting the viscosity decreasing step is 200 mPa•s or less (at 25°C), which has a shape factor (SF-1) of 110 to 800.

25. (previously presented) The resin particle (B) according to claim 24, which can be used as additives for paints, additives for coating materials, powder coatings, additives for cosmetics, resins for slush molding, spacers for use in manufacturing electronic components or devices, standard particles for electronic measuring instruments, toners for electrophotography, toners for electrostatic recording, toners for electrostatic printing, and hot-melt adhesives.